

oak woods occur. The houses were of a better order than those at Sasee, and altogether superior to those of Khegumpa. They are covered in with split bamboos, which are secured by rattans, a precaution rendered necessary by the great violence of the winds, which at this season blow from the south or south-east. Bulphai is a bitterly cold place in the winter, and there is scarcely any mode of escaping from its searching winds. The vegetation is altogether northern, the woods consisting principally of a picturesque oak, scarcely ever found under an elevation of 6000 feet. There is one small patch of cultivation, thinly occupied by abortive turnips or radishes, and miserable barley. It was at this place that we first heard the very peculiar crow of true Bootan cocks, most of which are afflicted with enormous corns.

On the 31st we resumed our journey, ascending at first a ridge to the N.E. of Bulphai, until we reached a pagoda, the elevation of which proved to be nearly 8000 feet; and still above this rose to the height of about 10,000 feet a bold rounded summit, covered with brown and low grass. Skirting this at about the same level as the pagoda, we came on open downs, on which small dells, tenanted by well-defined oak woods, were scattered. After crossing these downs, which were of inconsiderable extent, we began to descend, and continued doing so until we came to Roongdoong. About a third of the way down we passed a village containing about twenty houses, with the usual appendage of Sam Gooroo's residence; and still lower we came upon a picturesque temple, over which a beautiful weeping cypress hung its branches. We likewise passed below this a large temple raised on a square terrace basement. From this the descent is very steep, until a small stream is reached, from which we ascended very slightly to the castle of Roongdoong, in the loftiest part of which we took up our quarters. From the time that we descended after crossing the downs, the country had rather an improved aspect, some cultivation being visible here and there. We met a good many Kampas, pilgrims, and one chowry-tailed cow, laden with rock salt, which appears to be the most frequent burden.

[To be continued.]

*Mr. Schomburgk's recent Expedition in Guiana.*

[Continued from p. 328.]

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WHEN marching early in a morning over the savannahs, and on approaching an Indian settlement, we frequently observed on the small sandy footpath a number of marks, which a hasty observer would

have pronounced to be the prints of dogs' feet. The Indian is better acquainted with them; they are a sure proof that a pack of Carasissi paid the preceding night a visit to the hen-roost at the next Molocca or Indian village; and on entering it, the long faces of the squaws, and their vociferous gesticulations, spoke volumes of the depredations which these night robbers had committed among the feathered stock.

The Carasissi or Savannah dog, as it is called by the colonists, is the only animal allied to the dogs found in Guiana. It does not attain the size of the fox, but is of a stronger make than that animal, and has a shorter tail and more obtuse muzzle. In the form of the head and position of the eyes, it approaches more nearly to the dogs, and, in fact, appears to be intermediate between them and the foxes; and while these refuse to mix together, the Carasissi is much sought after by the Indians to make a cross breed with their dogs. There are few of these animals in the neighbourhood of the sea-coast, or in the cultivated part of Guiana; but on the savannahs they are found hunting in large packs. They pursue their prey principally by the eye, but in thick woods they follow it by the scent. During our expedition up the river Berbice, some of our hunters met with a pack of Carasissis; and they succeeded in securing one alive, but not having tied it sufficiently it gnawed its ropes and escaped. While we sojourned in Pirara, one was shot in the act of committing depredations among the poultry. It measured 2 feet 2 inches from the snout to the insertion of the tail, the latter being  $10\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length. The breast and belly were of a dusky white, the other parts of a deep buff colour, with the exception of the muzzle and the ears, which were dark, approaching almost to black. The tail was not so bushy as that of the fox, nor was it so long. They carry their ears erect.

They vie in cunning and art with the European fox, and the depredations which they commit on the hen-roosts are considerable. Their favourite haunts are thickets near open savannahs, and if a pack succeed in entering the village and in surprising the Indians' poultry, few escape, as they completely surround the roosting-place, and generally carry off their spoil before the inhabitants have any idea of their presence. I have been assured by the Indians that they soon run down deer, and pursue their game under full cry. They destroy in other ways large quantities of game.

I bought in the commencement of November a young one, which I considered about three weeks old. Its fur was darker than that of the adult; we fed it on boiled yams, ripe plantains, meat, and fish.



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It appeared chiefly fond of plantains, and would follow those who fed and nursed it like a dog. When incensed it growled like a puppy, but when in pain or tired of walking it would raise its voice to a harsh grating tone. They seldom lose, even when domesticated, their depredatory habits, and those Indians who raise them for the sake of procuring a cross breed with the dog, are obliged to keep them tied, as otherwise they would kill all the fowls and parrots\*. It is called by the Macusis MAIKANG, in Warrau WARITYOU.

The variety which has sprung from the breed between the Indian domestic dog and the Carasissi more resembles the dog, its body is however longer in proportion to its size, and its ears are pricked up. Their progeny become prolific. They are hardy, and many of them prove excellent hunters; they are therefore very much prized by the Indians, who pay great attention to their training.†

These extensive savannahs are likewise the favourite haunt of the Brown Coati (*Nasua fusca*) of the colonists, or Quasy and Kibihi of the natives of Guiana. They measure about 18 inches, and the tail, which is nearly the same length, is always carried erect. It is brown, brightening to a rust colour on the belly and breast; the tail brown, with rings of black; the snout long and moveable; the canine teeth strong and hooked; legs short, the hind a little longer than the fore ones; the feet long; it walks always upon its heels like the bears, frequently standing upon its hind legs.

They live in large societies, and know how to defend themselves bravely if attacked by dogs; indeed they fall often *en masse* upon them and kill the assailants. They are excellent climbers; and in

\* The Carasissi is Desmarest's *Canis cancrivorus*, of which he gives the following description, communicated to me since writing the above by Mr. Waterhouse:

*Canis cancrivorus*, Desmarest.

“Pelage cendré et varié de noir en dessus, parties inférieures d'un blanc-jaunâtre; oreilles brunes; côtés du cou derrière les oreilles, fauves; tarses et bout de la queue noirâtres.

	Pieds.	Pouces.
Longueur du corps .....	2	4
Longueur de la queue .....	0	11

Il fait sa proie des Agoutis et des Paca, &c. et il mange aussi des fruits, tels que ceux du bois rouge. Il va par petites troupes de dix ou sept individus. Patrie. La Guyane Française.”

† A good dog of that description which is trained to hunt deer, tapir, wild hogs, paca or laba, &c. generally fetches a price of from ten to twelve pounds sterling: the dogs imported from Europe suffer much from the effects of the climate, and some kinds, as greyhounds, foxhounds, spaniels, pointers, cockerels, &c. seldom thrive. Terriers and bull-dogs appear to accustom themselves earlier to the climate.

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descending a tree they always come down head foremost. Their food consists of insects, fruits, roots and such small prey as they are able to secure. They are destructive to young birds, and expert in digging after large beetles, for which their claws, which are very strong, are admirably adapted. They do not burrow in the ground for a residence.

A friend of mine in Berbice possessed a brown Coati which was domesticated. In its disposition it was extremely mild, and very fond of being caressed; it was sometimes induced to play, although it evidently preferred passing the greater part of the day asleep, rolling itself up in a lump. When receiving its food it sat apparently with great ease on its hinder legs, and thrusting its nails into the food, it carried it in this position with both its paws to the mouth. It possessed the peculiarity of gnawing on its own tail, which organ bore the marks of this strange propensity. Its smell was strong and disagreeable, and would have deterred many from keeping such an animal in their house.

Although it seemed generally to derive great pleasure from being stroked down the back, when it received these caresses from its master it would turn over, and return with its paws these caresses or thrust its long muzzle under the sleeve, uttering at the same time a soft and gentle cry. If a cat or a dog approached it, the soft cry would change to a shrill sound.

While travelling over the savannahs we have frequently met them at broad daylight, and I recollect once a chase ensued that was highly characteristic. The instant poor Quasy perceived itself pursued it made for the high grass, where no doubt it would have been able to hide itself, if its tail, which it carried erect, did not point out its situation. We found the single dog in our company unable to contend with it, the Indians assisted therefore to dislodge it from the retreat which the high grass partially afforded. The Coati now made for the open savannah, the Indians following the harassed animal shouting, the dog barking: it chose a path embarrassed with thorns and briars, and took to the swampy ground below the stately Mauritius palms; but this was of no avail, its pursuers not being deterred; like a hare it doubled back to the spot grown over with high grass, where it vainly sought for protection. Its strength being exhausted, it was soon seized by its long tail by one of the Indians; but even here it defended itself with desperate obstinacy; the Indian was obliged to loose his hold, and a new scuffle arose: wherever it turned it met an enemy; beaten with bows and long poles, fired at with ar-

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rows, worried by the dog, it at last expired; but I have seldom seen such tenacity of life evinced as in this small animal.

Naturalists differ whether *Nasua fusca* and *rufa* are distinct in species or mere variations in colour. I must confess that I have seen every variety of shade in the brown species, and a change in the colour of the fur takes place at the setting in of the rainy season in May, when they are generally darker. Nevertheless the Indians have told me of a black species, which they say is to be found in the land of the Waccawai Indians, who inhabit the banks of the Mazaring. I have never had the fortune to meet with it; however I possess the following note from Mr. Vieth, who, as already observed, accompanied me during my late expeditions:—

“ I have seen only one specimen, which was brought by Macusis, who came from the Essequibo by land over to the Demerara river. It was a size larger than the largest brown coati I have seen, and of a shining black, with the exception of the tail, which was ringed with white. In its habits and proportions it resembled exactly the brown coati.”

The geographical range of the *Nasua fusca* extends over Guiana, and is to be met with as well at the coast regions as at the plains of the interior; and since we know that it inhabits Brazil likewise, its distribution appears of great extent.

Although the Raccoon is not an animal which inhabits the savannahs\*, its relation to the preceding genus induces me to give now the few particulars which I know about its habits. It frequents the sea coast, and is generally found in the neighbourhood of inhabited spots, where it is destructive to poultry. It is about 2 feet long and 9 inches high; the head is large, snout full and thick, the ears of a moderate length; the nose is rather short, and more pointed than that of a fox; indeed its head reminds me of that of the hyæna. The fore feet are shorter than the hinder, the five claws sharp, strong, and with them and its teeth, which resemble those of a dog, it makes a vigorous resistance or attacks its prey with success. Its hair is long and shaggy, but very short upon the legs from the knee downwards; the colour of its fur is a light brown, the legs black, the tail thick, tapering towards a point and marked with black rings.

Among the favourite haunts of these animals are the thickets of Curida bushes (*Avicennia tomentosa*), which extend along the sea coast, where they feed upon crabs which they are expert in killing,

\* It appears entirely local to the sea coast; the Macusi Indians do not know the animal. The Warrans from the Corentyn call it Oghia.

rows, worried by the dog, it at last expired; but I have seldom seen such tenacity of life evinced as in this small animal.

Naturalists differ whether *Nasua fusca* and *rufa* are distinct in species or mere variations in colour. I must confess that I have seen every variety of shade in the brown species, and a change in the colour of the fur takes place at the setting in of the rainy season in May, when they are generally darker. Nevertheless the Indians have told me of a black species, which they say is to be found in the land of the Waccawai Indians, who inhabit the banks of the Mazaring. I have never had the fortune to meet with it; however I possess the following note from Mr. Vieth, who, as already observed, accompanied me during my late expeditions:—

“ I have seen only one specimen, which was brought by Macusis, who came from the Essequibo by land over to the Demerara river. It was a size larger than the largest brown coati I have seen, and of a shining black, with the exception of the tail, which was ringed with white. In its habits and proportions it resembled exactly the brown coati.”

The geographical range of the *Nasua fusca* extends over Guiana, and is to be met with as well at the coast regions as at the plains of the interior; and since we know that it inhabits Brazil likewise, its distribution appears of great extent.

Although the Raccoon is not an animal which inhabits the savannahs\*, its relation to the preceding genus induces me to give now the few particulars which I know about its habits. It frequents the sea coast, and is generally found in the neighbourhood of inhabited spots, where it is destructive to poultry. It is about 2 feet long and 9 inches high; the head is large, snout full and thick, the ears of a moderate length; the nose is rather short, and more pointed than that of a fox; indeed its head reminds me of that of the hyæna. The fore feet are shorter than the hinder, the five claws sharp, strong, and with them and its teeth, which resemble those of a dog, it makes a vigorous resistance or attacks its prey with success. Its hair is long and shaggy, but very short upon the legs from the knee downwards; the colour of its fur is a light brown, the legs black, the tail thick, tapering towards a point and marked with black rings.

Among the favourite haunts of these animals are the thickets of Curida bushes (*Avicennia tomentosa*), which extend along the sea coast, where they feed upon crabs which they are expert in killing,

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first tearing off their claws or nippers ; and being thus disabled from doing harm, the crab dog or racoon uses its sharp teeth to break the shell. In their native state they sleep by day, and issue at dusk in search of food ; birds, insects, roots, and vegetables, nothing comes amiss ; and as they possess a particular fondness for sweets, I have been told by practical planters that the injury which they do to sugar plantations is very considerable.

They take their food with both paws like the squirrel, and are fond of dipping it in water. I have noted with astonishment that they drink as well by lapping like the dog as by sucking. I have had several in a domesticated state, all of which possessed this peculiarity.

They are very active ; their sharp claws enable them to climb trees with great agility, and to leap with security from branch to branch. When on the ground they move forward by bounding, and in an oblique direction ; nevertheless they are swift enough, and rarely fall a prey to their pursuers.

They are easily domesticated when taken young, and are then harmless and amusing, but our endeavours to accustom two adults which we had secured to a domesticated state proved entirely vain. We were obliged to keep them chained ; they refused apparently to eat or drink, and died the first two weeks after we had entrapped them.

I have been told of a second species, but neither Mr. Vieth nor myself have ever met with it, nor have I been able to ascertain in what its distinguishing characters consist.

[To be continued.]

#### BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

*Études de Micromammalogie. Revue des Musaraignes, des Rats et des Campagnols, suivie d'un Index méthodique des Mammifères d'Europe.*  
Par Edm. De Selys-Longchamps, Membre de plusieurs Sociétés savantes. Paris, 1839. 8vo. pp. 165. pls. 3.

We deem it very desirable that this little work should be brought under the notice of our readers, as well on account of its intrinsic merits, as on that of its relating to certain groups which have recently attracted much attention in this country. It is also one of that class of books written exclusively for the benefit of the *working* naturalists, which of all others, in our opinion, tend most to the ad-



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